

David's Sin - How The Snare Is Set

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Samuel 11:1-5 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

- I. The beginning of sin is the failure to guard against temptation.
 - A. David was God's gift to the nation of Israel, their king, their hero, the theme of their songs, the answer to their prayers.
 - B. He was greatly beloved of the people, as his very name meant "beloved."
 - C. David was like a mighty old oak tree that had weathered many storms through many years.
 - 1. If anyone had ever proven to be steady and stable, it was David.
 - 2. Undeclared in battle, in discouragement, in disappointment, in dishonor.
 - D. But his destruction came the same way that any mighty thing is destroyed.
 - 1. Nations, businesses, churches, as well as buildings, bridges, and everything else.
 - E. The law of sin is that force that is working to take everything apart that God created to last forever.
 - 1. That law of sin is also at work in the works of man – whatever he builds with his hands the very elements of the world begin to take it apart.
 - F. As it always happens, corruption had crept into David's heart before it broke out in his life and his actions.
 - G. David had dropped all his guards against sin before this sin happened.
 - H. The breakdown begins within when the destructive elements of the world are allowed to get inside.
 - 1. Just as a virus or a germ can wreck havoc on the body and even kill it.
 - I. Sin is inevitable when we stop avoiding the things that entice us to it.
 - J. When we gaze upon those things, and think upon them, and watch others indulge themselves in them, it is only a matter of time before we will do the same.
 - K. It is a slow process until the trap is sprung, but when it happens, it happens very quickly.
 - 1. The roof may leak for years before the house falls in upon itself.
 - 2. The termites are at work for a long time before you feel the floor about to cave in.
 - 3. But the damage is done and is irreversible unless it is discovered early and stopped immediately.
 - L. Pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness will bring down the mightiest nation or the mightiest man.

1. David was undefeated by bears, lions, giants, armies of Philistines, Amalekites, and many others. He had prevailed over the greatest discouragement and disappointment, the greatest injustices, and the greatest hardships, but he failed and was defeated by his own lusts and brought down to the lowest state a man can be in.

Proverbs 16:32 ...he that ruleth his spirit (is better) than he that taketh a city.

- II. How does sin actually come to happen in the life of a person who knows what is right and wrong?
 - A. How does the conscience get silenced?
 - B. How does the known truth become unimportant?
 - C. Sin happens when the heart wins out over the mind.
 - D. The heart is the seat of our emotions, passions, and desires.
 1. Most people confuse the matter by calling this the “flesh” and equating it with our physical body.
 2. The lusts of the flesh are carnal desires that demand to be indulged.
 3. Natural desires are not wrong, but were given to us by our Creator.
 4. Those natural desires become our downfall when they begin to operate outside the moral law of God.
 5. Everything in this world system is set up to pour fuel on the fire of those inordinate carnal desires.
 - E. The mind is that part of our being that discerns between right and wrong, good and evil.
 1. The data that is fed to the mind comes in through the same gates that the enticement to indulge fleshly lusts does – the eyes and the ears.
 2. The mind must sort through all that comes in and identify the good and the evil.
 3. As long as the mind is firmly committed to judge according to truth as it is defined by the Word of God, the passions of the heart are denied and subdued.
 4. But when the eyes continue to gaze upon the object of lust the passions of the heart overwhelm the mind’s hold on the truth, and the result is that lust conceives (takes control) and brings forth sin.
 5. When the mind turns loose of the truth the conscience is silenced and the person proceeds into the sin.
 - F. The question that we should always ask ourselves is, “Is this logic or lust that is driving me in this direction.”
 1. And we must be thoroughly honest because it is very easy to deceive ourselves in this matter.
- III. We can never reconcile the reasoning of someone who is under the power of sin with the reasoning of a sound mind and a righteous person.
 - A. Because sin is insanity, reason takes a detour in the sinner’s mind. While they still condemn others for the same sin they are involved in, they somehow justify themselves in their blindness.
 - B. People not drunken on the same lust themselves have much trouble trying to understand how a person such as David could do what he did, while knowing all he knew, and having all his experience with God and righteousness, as well as all the evil and injustice that he had suffered himself.

- C. No one will ever figure it out and be able to explain satisfactorily how he could have done it.
- D. The question will forever remain in their mind, “How could you do what you did?” “Why did you do what you did?”
- E. It must be accounted as the great danger of the mystery of sin.
 - 1. How the powers of evil can turn a person’s heart and mind against one another and pour the coal of temptation to the fires of passion until the mind that knows the truth is overwhelmed and acquiesces to the lusts of the heart.
- F. This is why people find it so hard to forgive; they require a satisfactory explanation for why the transgression was committed and there is none.
 - 1. But a satisfactory explanation would justify the sin, and there would be no need for forgiveness.
 - 2. Forgiveness is the only way out of sin for the transgressor.
 - 3. Forgiveness only applies to sins and transgressions – not mistakes, or accidents, or weakness, or justifiable injuries to others.
- G. Since forgiveness is so impossible for sinners the sins of the righteous are their strongest defense for their sin, and many times the final nail in the coffin of their eternal doom.

Proverbs 25:26 A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

2 Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme...

- IV. To prevent sin from happening in our lives we must have some wisdom and understanding about how it happens and take measures to protect ourselves.
 - A. Guards at the gates are not enough – we must have outposts farther away to warn us while the enemy is still far enough away to deal with him with the least danger to ourselves.
 - B. With no warning until an enemy is at our gate, we are just steps away from being destroyed by him.
 - C. These outposts are called “standards” and they are there to protect us from sinning against God and ruining our testimony and our lives and the lives of others.
 - 1. Foolish and ignorant professors of religion who are void of understanding in this matter call people who have them “legalists” and spend their time trying to prove how unnecessary and wrong it is to abstain or avoid things that are not actually sins.
 - D. We should have outposts on the doors of our imaginations.
 - 1. Admit sin within the realm of the imagination, and there is enormous danger that it will gain control of your heart and mind.
 - 2. The outposts of the imagination should be so placed as to protect even the thoughts, and the moment the enemy is discovered there the alarm should sound, and the fight begin.
 - 3. If we stop the sin from entering in there it will not be at our door in a few moments.
 - 4. There is a point of no return somewhere between those outposts and the slaying of our soul and we do not know where that point is.
 - 5. Entertaining carnal imagery is like looking down the barrel of a rifle and pulling the trigger and then trying to dodge the bullet.

6. If sin is at the door, your door will be kicked in when you are not expecting it.
- E. So we know from David's experience, as well as every sinner since the Garden of Eden, and our own life, that we are brought to sin gradually and that there is plenty of time beforehand to prevent it if we are watchful and prepared.
 1. We know that it begins with what enters through our eyes and our ears.
 2. We know that it begins to germinate when we allow it in our imagination.
 3. We know that once it has established a presence in our imagination the only thing left for us to sin is an opportunity.
 4. We can be sure that there will be a plate prepared for us by the devil himself.
- F. So the Bible gives us the guidelines for protection.
 1. Flee

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1 Corinthians 10:14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Timothy 6:10-11 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

2. Abstain

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

3. Oppose the beginnings of evil, beware of entertaining one sinful thought, because you have no idea where it will take you, and that is where the corruption begins whose end is death and destruction.
4. Safety is found in resisting the first approaches of temptation.

Proverbs 6:5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

- G. Because the pit is very deep and very awful in which you will fall if you fail to live according to truth and instead follow your heart.